

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 1240.201

to act, the representative of the handler, producer-packer, or importer or his or her estate, shall be considered the first handler, producer-packer, or importer for the purposes of this part.

§ 1240.120 Retention period for records.

Each first handler, producer-packer, importer, or any person who receives an exemption from assessments under §§1240.42 (a) and (b) required to make reports pursuant to this subpart shall maintain and retain for at least two years beyond the marketing year of their applicability: One copy of each report made to the Board, records of all exempt producers, producer-packers, and importers including certification of exemption as necessary to verify the address of such exempt person and such records as are necessary to verify such reports.

[56 FR 37458, Aug. 7, 1991]

§ 1240.121 Availability of records.

Each first handler, producer-packer, importer, or any person who receives an exemption from assessments under §§1240.42 (a) and (b) and is required to make reports pursuant to this subpart shall make available for inspection by authorized employees of the Board or the Secretary during regular business hours, such records as are appropriate and necessary to verify reports required under this subpart.

[56 FR 37458, Aug. 7, 1991]

§ 1240.122 Confidential books, records, and reports.

All information obtained from the books, records, and reports of handlers, producer-packers, importers or any persons who receive an exemption from assessments under §1240.42 (a) and (b) and all information with respect to refunds of assessments made to individual producers and importers shall be kept confidential in the manner and to the extent provided for in §1240.52 of the Order.

[56 FR 37458, Aug. 7, 1991]

§ 1240.123 Right of the Secretary.

All fiscal matters, programs, projects, rules or regulations, reports, or other substantive action proposed

and prepared by the Board shall be submitted to the Secretary for approval.

§ 1240.124 Personal liability.

No member of the Board shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate member, or employee except for acts of willful misconduct, gross negligence, or those which are criminal in nature.

§ 1240.125 OMB control numbers.

The control numbers assigned to the information collection requirements by the Office of Management and Budget pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Public Law 96-511, are as follows: OMB Number 0581-0093, except Board member nominee information sheets which are assigned OMB Number 0505-0001.

[56 FR 37458, Aug. 7, 1991]

Subpart C—Referendum Procedures

SOURCE: 65 FR 48321, Aug. 7, 2000, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1240.200 General.

Referenda to determine whether eligible producers, importers, and, in the case of an order assessing handlers, handlers favor the continuation, suspension, termination, or amendment of the Honey Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Order shall be conducted in accordance with this subpart.

§ 1240.201 Definitions.

(a) *Act* means the Honey Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act (Pub. L. 98-590; 98 Stat. 3115; enacted October 30, 1984; 7 U.S.C. 4601-4613, as amended) and any amendments thereto.

(b) *Administrator* means the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, with power to redelegate, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has been delegated or may hereafter be delegated to act in the Administrator's stead.

(c) *Board* or *National Honey Board* means the Honey Board, the administrative body provided for under section 7(c) of the Act and established under § 1240.30.

(d) *Department* means the United States Department of Agriculture.

(e) *Eligible handler* means any person defined as a handler or producer-packer in the Order, or importer in this subpart, who handles domestic honey or honey products, and is covered by an order and subject to assessment on domestic honey handled during the representative period.

(f) *Eligible importer* means any person defined as an importer in this subpart, who is engaged in the importation of honey or honey products, and is subject to pay assessments to the Board on honey or honey products imported during the representative period.

(g) *Eligible producer* means any person defined as a producer or producer-packer in the Order who produces honey and is subject to pay assessments to the Board on such honey produced during the representative period and who:

(1) Owns or shares in the ownership of honey bee colonies or beekeeping equipment resulting in the ownership of the honey produced;

(2) Rents honey bee colonies or beekeeping equipment resulting in the ownership of all or a portion of the honey produced;

(3) Owns honey bee colonies or beekeeping equipment but does not manage them and, as compensation, obtains the ownership of a portion of the honey produced; or

(4) Is a party in a lessor-lessee relationship or a divided ownership arrangement involving totally independent entities cooperating only to produce honey who share the risk of loss and receive a share of the honey produced. No other acquisition of legal title to honey shall be deemed to result in persons becoming eligible producers.

(h) *Importer* means any person who imports honey or honey products into the United States as principal or as an agent, broker, or consignee for any person who produces honey or honey products outside of the United States for sale in the United States, and who is listed as the importer of record for such honey or honey products.

(i) *Order* means the Honey Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Order.

(j) *Person* means any individual, group of individuals, partnership, corporation, association, cooperative, or any other entity. For the purpose of this definition, the term partnership includes, but is not limited to:

(1) A husband and wife who have title to, or leasehold interest in, honey bee colonies or beekeeping equipment as tenants in common, joint tenants, tenants by the entirety, or, under community property laws, as community property, and

(2) So-called *joint ventures* wherein one or more parties to the agreement, informal or otherwise, contributed land and others contributed capital, labor, management, equipment, or other services, or any variation of such contributions by two or more parties, so that it results in the production, handling, or importation of honey or honey products for market and the authority to transfer title to the honey or honey products so produced, handled or imported.

(k) *Referendum agent* or *agent* means the individual or individuals designated by the Secretary to conduct the referendum.

(l) *Representative period* means the period designated by the Secretary pursuant to the Act.

(m) *Secretary* means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in the Secretary's stead.

§ 1240.202 Voting.

(a) *Eligibility.* (1) Each person who is, as defined in this subpart, an eligible producer; an eligible importer; or, in the case of an order assessing handlers, an eligible handler shall be entitled to vote in the referendum.

(2) In conducting a referendum for the sole purpose of determining whether persons favor the implementation of amendments to the Order in accordance with changes to the Act made by the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (Pub.